

2 May 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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State Dept. review completed

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2 May 1966

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Vietnam: Current situation report. (Page 1)
2. Indonesia: New leaders proceeding to divorce government from extremist foreign policies. (Page 3)
3. Japan - Communist China: Pro-Peking elements in ruling party believe time is ripe to improve relations with Communist China. (Page 4)
4. USSR - Warsaw Pact: Moscow to convene meeting of pact political committee this summer. (Page 6)
5. Arab States - Israel: Further clashes along Syrian or Jordanian border possible. (Page 7)
6. Notes: Dominican Republic; Egypt - Saudi Arabia. (Page 8)

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

2 May 1966

*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: May Day activity in Saigon was generally orderly. Buddhist youths, however, in collusion with a new labor group possibly infiltrated by the Viet Cong, held an unauthorized anti-American demonstration in front of the US Embassy shortly after the scheduled labor parades ended.

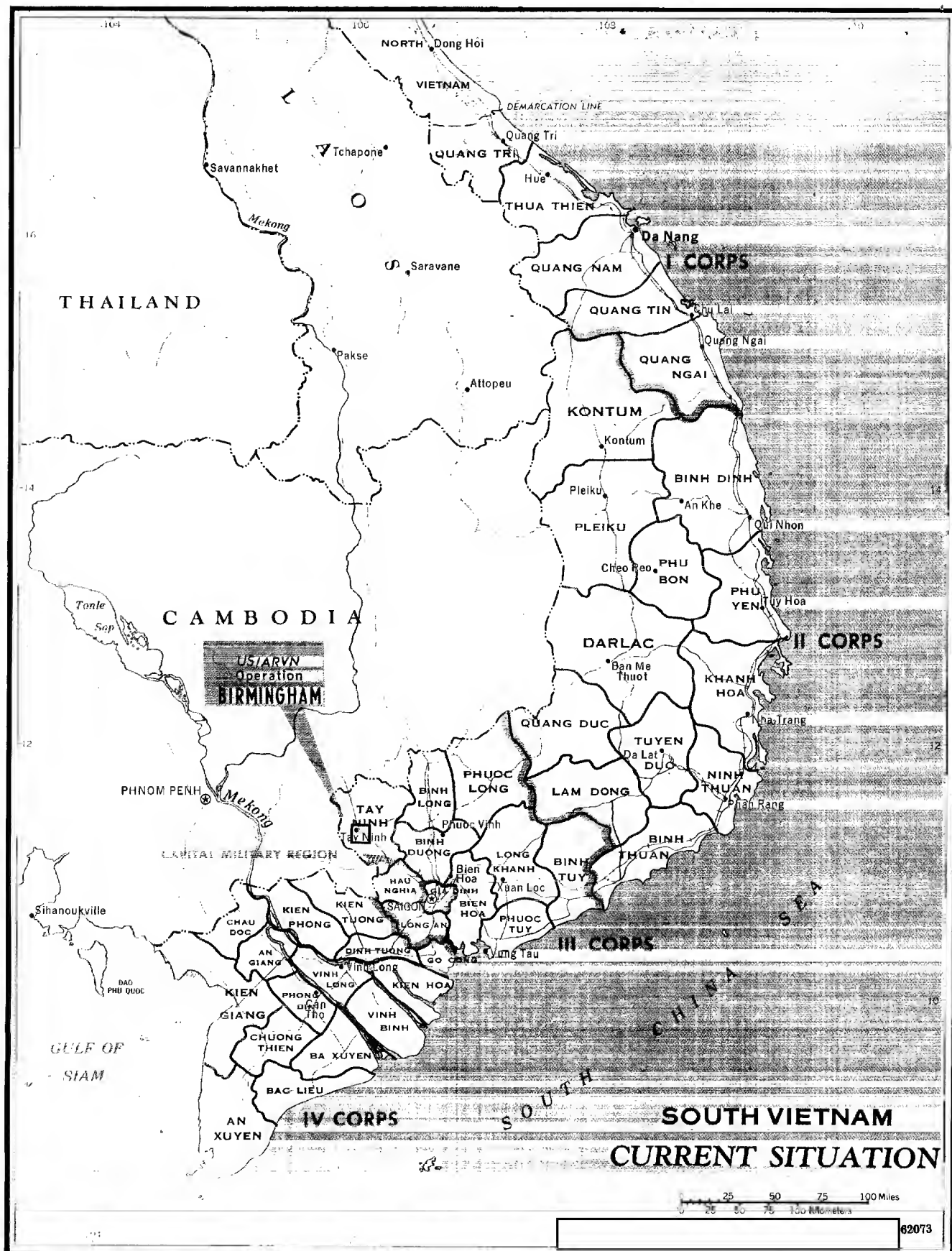
Premier Ky made a May Day speech listing the efforts of the government to give the people a unified country through the forthcoming elections for a constitutional assembly. Ky said that the government had demonstrated its "good will," and would take more effective measures to deal with "subversive" disturbances from now on.

The preliminary composition of the "election law drafting committee," as outlined by Directorate Secretary General Chieu, is 16 members from religious sects and political parties, 13 legal technicians invited by the government, and five members from the corps areas and the Saigon region to represent the elected local councils.

The minor role accorded the provincial representatives might provoke a reaction from Buddhist clerics over the government's apparent intent to dominate the committee. The Buddhists had been seeking 50 percent provincial representation.

Military Developments in South Vietnam: Only light and sporadic fighting was reported in South Vietnam this weekend.

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US troops fought a five-hour engagement with a Viet Cong force of undetermined size on 30 April in Tay Ninh Province. US casualties were six killed and nine wounded against 31 Viet Cong killed. The engagement was the first significant contact with the enemy in the Operation BIRMINGHAM sweep area in several days. Substantial amounts of enemy supplies continue to be captured, however. Approximately 1,000 pounds of medical supplies were seized when a Viet Cong medical complex was overrun and destroyed on 30 April.

25X1

2 May 66

2

25X1

Indonesia: [Djakarta's new leaders are proceeding with quiet efforts to divorce the government from President Sukarno's extremist foreign policies and to discredit him.]

[They are now working out plans to return to the UN. The Indonesian ambassador to the US approached the UN Secretariat on the matter and received a favorable response, and a special section has been set up in the Department of Foreign Affairs to handle Indonesia's re-entry into the UN. The section has been instructed to ignore Sukarno's strictures and proceed with plans to rejoin certain specialized agencies of the UN even before the General Assembly convenes next September.]

[The new leaders hope to use the Provisional People's Consultative Assembly, the national legislature, to strip Sukarno of his authority and titles, pave the way for general elections, and prepare for a return to constitutional government. In a forceful speech on 29 April, General Nasution called on the assembly, which until now has been manipulated by Sukarno, to resume its position as the country's supreme governing body. It remains to be seen, however, how far the assembly will be willing to go. It is scheduled to meet on 12 May.]

[Sukarno's latest attempt to obtain a forum which he could use to strengthen his position has been thwarted. He reshuffled the Supreme Advisory Council and scheduled a meeting in early May, but abandoned the scheme when it provoked a storm of protest sparked by leaders of the Moslem Scholars Party, student groups, and the press.]

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Japan - Communist China: Pro-Peking elements in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) apparently believe the time is ripe to improve relations with Communist China.

A four-man group led by Kenzo Matsumura, a party faction leader and long-time partisan of closer relations with China, is planning to leave for Peking within the next few weeks. Matsumura is a senior adviser to the semiofficial Takasaki trade office which has representatives in Peking and negotiates "unofficial" trade agreements with Communist China.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The reason given for the trip is to initiate negotiations for the next five-year trade agreement. Members of the mission, however, have indicated strong interest in discussing political issues--including Sino-Japanese relations, the Sino-US confrontation, and the Vietnam situation.

During the past year visits by the LDP have been proposed, but they foundered on opposition by the Chinese and Japanese governments. Although Prime Minister Sato apparently suggested earlier this spring that the present visit be postponed, he may go along with it now to avoid being tagged as an opponent of improving trade and relations with Peking, a position which would be politically damaging.

25X1

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2 May 66

4

25X1

Although the Chinese reacted strongly against Japan's refusal early this month to admit a Chinese delegation invited by the Japanese Socialists, they probably will accept this high-level visit as a public indication that China is not "isolated." During the past month the Japanese have received two cultural delegations from China.

25X1

2 May 66

5

25X1

USSR - Warsaw Pact: Moscow reportedly intends to convene a meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee this summer.

A senior Polish official in Moscow has said that such a meeting will take place, and the French believe that this conference explains Soviet Premier Kosygin's postponement of his trip to Sweden from 4 to 18 July.

A meeting of the Political Consultative Committee in early July would provide a timely opportunity for Soviet and Eastern European leaders to review their general European policy in the wake of De Gaulle's visit to the USSR and the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels this June.

The conference may deal with the question of greater participation by the Eastern European states in Warsaw Pact staff work. It may also focus on renewed proposals in the realm of European security. The idea of a pan-European conference to discuss the question of collective security in Europe was broached at the last meeting of the Warsaw Pact's political body in January 1965.

In recent weeks, Soviet officials have been giving greater currency to such a conference proposal largely to provoke European reaction over the still controversial issue of Germany's role in NATO nuclear-sharing arrangements. During his visit to Italy, Foreign Minister Gromyko agreed that a mutually acceptable way to approach such a conference must be found and reiterated the familiar theme that if Germany obtains nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union must reply by "raising tensions."

25X1

2 May 66

6

25X1

Arab States - Israel: Israel's retaliatory raids into Jordan last Friday have raised the possibility of further clashes along either the Syrian or Jordanian border.

The Israelis blame the Syrians for a recent upsurge of sabotage activities launched by the Fatah, a Syrian-based Arab terrorist organization which operates out of Jordan. In addition, Israel recently charged Syria with firing on Israeli civilian aircraft and with injuring four civilians in an Israeli border village. Israel could touch off a serious clash at will by running patrols along the border to provoke Syrian fire. The Syrian front commander reportedly has placed his troops at maximum alert, and both sides announced last night that one minor fire-fight had already occurred.

The Israeli reprisal raids into alleged Fatah bases in Jordan reportedly resulted in four Jordanians killed and four wounded. King Husayn may now feel that he has gone as far as his difficult domestic situation will allow in suppressing the Fatah. Israel's action may goad him into engaging in harassment across the border, despite the inherent dangers of such a move, in order to undercut charges of weakness. The Jordanian Government is apparently giving consideration to bringing the matter before the UN Security Council in any event.

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25X1

Dominican Republic: Garcia Godoy has dispatched a personal emissary to the Organization of American States member nations in an attempt to bring about the withdrawal of the Inter-American Peace Force (IAPF) before 1 July. This move was taken without consulting the OAS commission in Santo Domingo and appears to be an attempt by Garcia Godoy to gain credit for single-handedly bringing about the force's removal. The US Embassy comments that the departure of the IAPF before an elected government takes office might cause presidential candidate Juan Bosch to reconsider his candidacy, given his deep suspicion that the Dominican military will not allow him to take office.

25X1

2 May 66

8

25X1

Egypt - Saudi Arabia: President Nasir, in a May Day speech, threatened to occupy two Saudi towns on the Yemen border, if there is "aggression" or infiltration into Yemen from Saudi Arabia. He attacked the "reactionary rulers" and said he can destroy in five minutes the 12 planes Faysal has ordered from Britain. Nasir's bombast, coming just before an Egyptian peace mission to Jidda, will probably reinforce Faysal's belief that Nasir intends to keep his troops in Yemen, threatening Saudi Arabia and the British colony of Aden.

25X1

2 May 66

9

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The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

The Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs)

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Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy

Chief of Staff, United States Air Force

Chief of Staff, United States Army

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U.S. Rep., Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO

Supreme Allied Commander, Europe

Commander in Chief, Pacific

Commander in Chief, Atlantic

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The Director, The Joint Staff

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of Navy

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